

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07

IO-11 PC-05 INT-05 OES-05 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /099 W

----- 093352

Z 062022Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9960

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0825

DEPARTMENT PASS FOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN POSTS, JCS, DOD,  
CINCSOUTH, USUN NY, USMISSION GENEVA, MEXICO IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GT,

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKES

1. APPROXIMATELY 1215 PM LOCAL TIME GUATEMALA CITY STRUCK BY SHOCK MEASURED BY NATIONAL OBSERVATORY AT 5.5 ON MERCALLI SCALE OR 7.2 ON RICHTER SCALE, WHICH LASTED 25 SECONDS IN ALL. HOWEVER, SEVERE PART BY EMBASSY OBSERVATION LASTED ONLY 8-10 SECONDS. EMBASSY WHICH WAS SEVERELY SHAKEN WAS EVACUATED BRIEFLY BUT NO SIGNIFICANT FURTHER DAMAGE TO EMBASSY BUILDING HAS BEEN FOUND AT THIS TIME. MANY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES SUFFERING FROM SHOCK AND CONCERN FOR THEIR FAMILIES WERE SENT HOME.

2. ROAD TO CHIMALTENANGO, PROPOSED SITE OF 100 BED HOSPITAL, WHICH HAD BEEN CLEARED OF LANDSLIDES WAS CLOSED AGAIN. NO ESTIMATE AVAILABLE AT PRESENT OF TIME REQUIRED TO CLEAR IT BUT HOPE TO HAVE ESTIMATE IN NEXT FEW HOURS.

3. OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT SHOCK HAS AGGRAVATED AFFECTS OF  
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INITIAL QUAKE BUT CAUSED LITTLE MAJOR NEW DAMAGE.

4. AMERICAN SEISMOLIST HERE BY NAME OF WALKER SAYS THIS  
QUAKE IS OF "COLLAPSE" VARIETY AS CONTRASTED WITH INITIAL  
"TULLERGIC" QUAKE. DIFFERENT IS THAT TULLERGIC QUAKE IS  
EARTH MOVEMENT ALONG FAULT LINE WHEREAS A "COLLAPSE" QUAKE  
IS CAUSED BY A "ROOF" FALLING IN ON A CHAMBER THAT HAS  
BEEN EMPTIED BY VOLCANIC ERUPTION. NORMALLY TULLERGIC QUAKE  
RELIEVE PRESSURE BUT FEB. 4 SHOCK MAY HAVE CAUSED THE TENSION  
THAT CAUSED LATEST QUAKE. WALKER SAYS NO WAY OF PREDICTING  
WHETHER THIS "COLLAPSE" QUAKE WILL BE THE ONLY ONE OF ITS TYPE  
FOR YEARS OR THE FIRST OF SEVERAL.

5. MEXICAN SEISMOLOGISTS HERE FRR A MEXICAN CHAPTER OF PAN  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY HOPE TO FINISH  
INSTALLING SEISMOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT FOR EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION  
TODAY. HOWEVER, ANY ESTIMATES FROM THEM AS TO LIKELIHOOD  
OF FURTHER QUAKE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE READY FOR ANOTHER  
THREE OR FOUR DAYS.  
MELOY

NOTE BY OCT: GUATEMALA 825 PASSED ABOVE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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